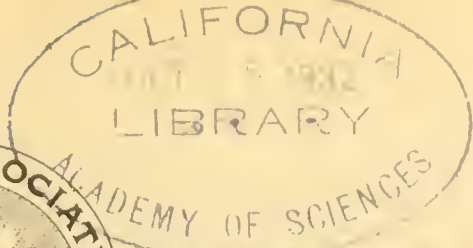


M&O
Serials
QL 671
.G84



THE
MONTHLY



GULL
BULLETIN

VOLUME 14

SAN FRANCISCO, OCTOBER, 1932

NUMBER 10

Wood Ducks

"How the young are brought to ground or water is unknown. Some birdmen say that the old birds carry them in their bills or on their backs. I really cannot say how they carry them in the wild state, but I know that they just shove them out of their nests when reared in captivity. Hollow stumps are planned near the pond at a height of only about five feet. As most breeders pinion the birds so they cannot fly when they rear them in captivity, this may have a lot to do with the birds shoving the young out of their nests, for the mothers cannot very well carry them on their backs when they themselves are unable to fly.

"I got up very early one morning to witness a Wood Duck taking her young ones out of her nest just before sunrise. The mother started talking to her fluffy little ones and soon she began to shove them out, one by one. When the last one was out, down came the old duck, taking her little brood to the pond."

(A portion of an article in *Game Breeder* vol. XXXV, No. 12, December 1931, by Alma M. Bendick.)

"Editor of *The Game Breeder*: I read the article about the Wood Duck in your December, 1931 issue, and have also read similar articles in other magazines. All articles I have seen have been in error in statements that the way in which young Wood Ducks leave the tree in which they were hatched is unknown.

"I wish to go on record with my personal observation that the ducklings are carried from the tree on the mother's back, and also *returned* to the hollow in the tree *for several nights*, said hollow tree being as much as sixty feet above the ground. I have seen—a number of times—from five to eight ducklings carried out—also brought back—at one load."

"Soon after daylight the mother duck puts her head out of the hole and spends about five minutes looking and listening. When sure that no enemies are near, she comes through the hole head first, then turns her head backward into the hole as her body slides out. She hooks her head over the lower edge of the hole and hunches her body up, opening her wings a little and clinging to the tree with her feet. She makes the top of her back into a narrow shelf and utters a peculiar low sound. The little ducklings rapidly scramble out holding tightly to the mother's feathers. They cluster at the point between her wing joints. Some of the ducklings make two or three changes in their positions until all are set and ready to ride, when the mother pulls her head out of the hole and drops downward and out into flying position and flies to the water, which in one case that I watched was a lake a half-mile off."

"On returning—just at sundown—I have observed the mother to alight on a tree about seventy-five feet away and spend about five minutes looking and listening, then fly to the hole, stick her head in to hold on, and then cling there while the ducklings climbed pell-mell into the hole. It took them about fifteen seconds to go in, and not much longer than this to come out in the morning."

"I believe the young were brought back to the tree for four or five nights before leaving the nest for good.

"C. W. Brown, Frostproof, Fla."

(From the *Game Breeder*, June 1932, volume XXXVI, No. 6, page 181.)

Cormorant in Yosemite Valley

An unusual bird for Yosemite Valley was noted on July 2 and 3, 1932. A Cormorant was watched as he fed in a small pond across the road from the foot of El Capitan. He was alone and entirely indifferent to his audience. He spent his time between gorging on small animal life in the water and preening and drying his feathers, with long naps between activities.

Upon inquiry at the Naturalist's office at the Museum, we were told that this was the second record of a Cormorant in the Valley, that his main food was pollywogs which abounded in great numbers in the pond. The bird was listed by them as an immature Farallon Cormorant.

Mary I. Compton (Mrs. C. Norman), Berkeley, California. August 7, 1932.



The following is quoted from a letter received from Beecher S. Bowdish, Secretary and Treasurer of the New Jersey Audubon Society: "Having read with interest and sympathy the first sketch in the August issue of *THE GULL*, from the pen of Emerson A. Stoner, may I be permitted to voice this supplement to his final sentence, 'and man also kills other animal life just for the love of killing.'"



A proposal submitted for the vote of the members to change article VII of our by-laws:

Article VII at present reads as follows: This Association shall affiliate with the National Association of Audubon Societies for the protection of Wild Birds and Animals, by making application for membership in that organization, the character of the membership to be determined by the Board of Directors and by paying the required fee.

Proposed Amendment

Article VII. This Association may affiliate with other associations, societies, clubs and other organizations whose objects and activities are similar in nature and effect to those of this Association. The proposition for such affiliation must have been adopted by the Board of Directors and then ratified at a general meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present; provided that notice of such intended action at such meeting shall have been given in *THE GULL*.



Northern Phalaropes: On August 26, 1932, in crossing the San Mateo Bridge near the eastern shore Mrs. Parmenter and I saw several Northern Phalaropes dead on the road, counting at least nine. Most of them had not been injured by passing automobiles so we reasoned that they had recently struck the electric wires on their flight southward.

In the water we saw one which was evidently disabled and a Western Gull also saw him about the same time. As the Gull swooped down toward him, the Phalarope tried to escape but could only lift one wing and was unable to fly and get away. The Gull struck the Phalarope repeatedly for some minutes on the back and soon mangled and killed him and eventually devoured him.

We recrossed the bay on the Dumbarton Bridge and saw thousands of Northern Phalaropes in the shallow water near the Alameda shore together with hundreds of other shore birds.

In all our birding experiences, we have never seen such large numbers of shore birds together, as were on the eastern shores of the southern San Francisco Bay on this occasion.

H. E. Parmenter, San Francisco, California. September 8, 1932.

September Field Trip was taken on Sunday, the 11th, to Alameda, visiting the north shore of the island, then crossing the bridge to Bay Farm Island and walking some distance along the channel which separates Alameda from Bay Farm Island.

Twenty-six members and ten guests were present. A high fog in the morning gave way to the sun and an ideal day was enjoyed.

Our trip was taken primarily to study the shore birds. Since tide conditions were not favorable till early afternoon, ample time was had to visit Lincoln Park where a female Western Tanager, Cedar Waxwings and a Black-crowned Night Heron were found.

After luncheon we were fortunate in having Mrs. Kelly join our group. She had very thoughtfully brought with her study skins of shore birds and gave us a very instructive talk on some of the species which we hoped to find later.

Seven species of shore-birds were found on Bay Farm Island, each species, excepting the Killdeer, being represented by fairly large numbers of individuals, a gratifying situation when present day conditions on the island are considered.

Mrs. Kelly had arranged for our group to visit the home of Mrs. Scott at the conclusion of our trip. Russet-backed Thrushes, Hummingbirds, Spotted Towhees and Linnets had nested in Mrs. Scott's garden during the past season. The nests were well preserved and individuals of each species were still present, also a Black-crowned Night Heron and a Barn Owl. A Pileolated Warbler came and bathed in the garden pool quite unmindful of an appreciative audience.

A total list of twenty-nine species was noted as follows:

Black-crowned Night	California Gull	English Sparrow
Heron	Forster Tern	Meadowlark
Marsh Hawk	Barn Owl	Brewer Blackbird
Killdeer	Anna Hummingbird	Western Tanager
Black-bellied Plover	Horned Lark	Linnet
Western Willet	Barn Swallow	Green-backed Goldfinch
Long-billed Dowitcher	Russet-backed Thrush	Spotted Towhee
Western Sandpiper	Cedar Waxwing	Brown Towhee
Marbled Godwit	Shrike	Savannah Sparrow
Northern Phalarope	Pileolated Warbler	Song Sparrow

C. A. Bryant, Historian.

* * *

Audubon Notes

October Meeting will be held on Thursday, the 13th, at 8 p. m., room 19, Ferry Building. The speaker of the evening will be Mr. Carl Sharsmith, Ranger Naturalist of Yosemite National Park. Subject: "Some Experiences of a Naturalist at Tuolumne Meadows."

* * *

October Field Trip will be taken on Sunday, the 16th, to Lake Merced, San Francisco. East Bay members should reach San Francisco about 8:30 a. m. Take Municipal car K, transfer to M car at St. Francis Loop beyond Twin Peaks Tunnel, get off at Junipero Serra Boulevard where party will form at 9:30. Time from ferry to meeting place about forty minutes. Bring luncheon. C. A. Bryant, leader.

September Meeting: The 182nd regular meeting was held on September 8, in room 19, Ferry Building, with thirty-six members and guests present. President Brighton C. Cain presiding.

Miss Mabel J. White of Mill Valley was elected to membership.

Commander Parmenter paid tribute to the memory of Ralph Hoffmann, noted scientist, who died by accident July 21, 1932, by falling from a steep cliff on San Miguel Island. Mr. Hoffmann, though not a member of our Association, seems very near to us through the very general use, by our members, of his book, "Birds of the Pacific Coast."

Commander Parmenter was intimately associated with Mr. Hoffmann in ornithological work for several years. He gave us a very interesting sketch of his life.

Mr. C. B. Lastreto spoke as follows on the deaths of charter members Past President Dr. F. W. D'Evelyn and Past Vice-President George T. Marsh:

"Dr. D'Evelyn's activities in life were motivated by a wide, active love: love for his fellow beings, love for children and their pets, and love for animals and birds; he organized clinics for indigent sufferers, founded the child's pet exhibition, was an active director of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and official veteran Boy Scout worker.

"Often was I impressed witnessing his activities in one and the other field; by his sincere energy in the attainment of results, and with never a suspicion of ambition for the prestige he well merited. His modesty and retirement interfered with the public recognition and honors that should have been conferred on him.

"He had been president twice of the Cooper Ornithological Club. His interest in scientific ornithology was, however, secondary to his devotion to the protection of birds and the popular appreciation of their aesthetic value.

"He enthusiastically answered the call for help in organizing the Audubon Association of the Pacific; was chairman of the committee that adopted our name and emblem.

"Having served two presidential terms, after an interval he was called again to service. He presided at the decennial banquet, when his usual gracious manner and sparkling wit contributed largely to the success of the occasion.

Mr. Marsh's love for birds had led him to meet Dr. D'Evelyn, who invited

him to join the organizers of our Association. He was for some time an enthusiastic member, was vice-president and on occasions presided at meetings.

"The Association has suffered a great loss in the passing of its two good friends, Dr. D'Evelyn and Mr. Marsh."

Dr. F. W. Evermann, Honorary Member, died September 27, 1932.

Field observations were reported as follows:

Commander and Mrs. Parmenter: September 7th, San Mateo Bridge, ten Black and three Ruddy Turnstones, two Snowy Plovers, twenty-one Knots, many Willets, Marbled Godwits, Black-bellied Plovers and Long-billed Dowitchers.

Bob Taylor: August 29th, Oakland, Calaveras Warbler.

Brighton C. Cain: August 20th, Oakland, Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Miss Selma Werner: September 5th, Golden Gate Park, Cedar Waxwings.

Mrs. A. B. Stephens: August 23rd, in a small puddle of water in Middle Lake, Golden Gate Park, Great Blue and Anthony Green Herons; 30th, Cliff House, Shearwaters.

The speaker of the evening was Mr. E. Lowell Sumner, whose subject, "Studies of Young Hawks and Owls," was illustrated with slides showing the growth and habits of these birds in the nest and also in captivity. An interesting talk cut too short by the lateness of the hour.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

For the Study and Protection of Birds

President.....	Brighton C. Cain.....	503 Plaza Bldg., Oakland
Corresponding Secretary.....	C. B. Lastreto.....	260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....	Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....	1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.

Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.

Subscription to monthly Bulletin, \$1.00 per year. Single copies, 15c.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, \$3.00 per year.

Student memberships, \$1.50 per year.

Life memberships, \$50.00

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.